

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00331 141014Z

21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W

----- 048539

O 140811Z MAR 75

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3264

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

S E C R E T ASMARA 0331

EXDIS

ADDIS ABABA "ALSO" PASS TO CMAAG ADDIS; DEPT "ALSO" PASS TO
SECDEF WASHDC, CJCS WASHDC, CSA WASHDC, CSAF WASHDC, CNO WASHDC
AND USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GERMANY (PRIORITY)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, ET, US

SUBJ: EPMG AMMUNITION REQUEST

REF: SECDEF 121519Z MAR 75

1. DETAILED SECDEF MSG. UNDER REFERENCE APPEARS MAKE CLEAR THAT
DECISION REACHED BY USG TO ACCEDE TO EPMG AMMUNITION RESUPPLY
REQUEST. IN VIEW DIRECT IMPACT CONSEQUENCES THIS DECISION WILL
PROBABLY HAVE ON FATE AMERICANS REMAINING HERE, I WOULD APPRECIATE
ANSWERS TO FOLLOWING:

A. IS THERE TO BE A PUBLIC STATEMENT? IF SO, MAY WE HAVE TEXT ASAP?

B. WHAT GUIDANCE IS CONTEMPLATED FOR USE HERE IN ATTEMPTING RESPOND
TO INEVITABLE QUESTIONS THAT WILL BE PUT TO US BY ERITREANS?
MAY WE HAVE THIS GUIDANCE ALSO ASAP?

C. IN PARTICULAR, DOES USG CONTEMPLATE MEDIATION EFFORTS AND,
IF SO, MAY WE DISCUSS SUCH PLANNED EFFORTS WITH ERITREAN FRIENDS?
IF PUBLICITY GIVEN TO ARMS RESUPPLY ACTION BELIEVE EQUAL PUBLICITY
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO USG MEDIATION EFFORTS AS ONE WAY OF DILUTING
ADVERSE IMPACT HERE OF RESUPPLY DECISION.

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D. MAY WE HAVE CLARIFICATION OF REFTEL ON QUESTION SMALL ARMS AMMO? IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT BOMBS ARE TO BE INCLUDED AS WELL AS ARTILLERY SHELLS. THESE, OF COURSE, HAVE BEEN USED BY ETH MILITARY IN SYSTEMATIC DESTRUCTION OF VILLAGES NEAR ASMARA. RESSUPPLY OF THESE ITEMS, IN PARTICULAR, WILL NOT BE WELL RECEIVED HERE.

2. IN VIEW LOCAL HOSTILITY TOWARDS AMERICANS LIKELY TO BE GENERATED BY RESUPPLY ACTION, AND STRONG POSSIBILITY ELF MAY REACT OVERTLY, DO STATE/DOD STILL CONTEMPLATE RETAINING RESIDUAL KAGNEW OPERATION DESPITE PROBABILITY OF INCREASING HAZARDS FOR CIVILIAN CONTRACTORS TO SAY NOTHING OF NAVY AND CONGEN PERSONNEL? ARE WE TO WAIT PATIENTLY FOR OUR FIRST CASUALTY BEFORE OPERATIONS ARE REDUCED OR CANCELLED?

3. IT MATTER OF URGENCY THAT I RECEIVE PROPER GUIDANCE ON QUESTIONS RAISED ABOVE. WHILE IT PREMATURE TO STATE THAT US POSITION HERE RENDERED UNTENABLE BY ARMS RESUPPLY DECISION, IT WILL CERTAINLY BE MADE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT AND DANGEROUS.
SHERRY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ANY OF ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

SECRET

NNN

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